COMIC SHOP NEWS™

351

VALIANT THIRD ANNIVERSARY

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Seed of Destruction Sowing Seeds of Success for Legend Comics

His tale begins in World War II England and continues today, where he is the known as the World's Greatest Paranormal Investigator. His investigation of a sole survivor of a doomed Arctic mission pits him against such unlikely enemies as vampire frog creatures. He's Hellboy, the new creation of Mike Mignola, and he's starring in his own limited series beginning this spring.

Hellboy: Seed of Destruction, a four-issue Legend Comics limited series released by Dark Horse, features the first book-length adventure of Mignola's creation. It's not his first appearance, though; Hellboy originally appeared in a cameo in ***John Byrne's Next Men: Faith #3***. Byrne's involvement with the character continues as he scripts the four-issue limited series.

"***Hellboy*** features many prominent fixtures familiar to Mignola fans," editor Barbara Kesel said, "including a healthy dose of monsters and classical statuary. It's bursting with elements of horror, mystery, and the supernatural, featuring all kinds of unusual creatures ranging from gorillas to frog monsters."

Hellboy is Mignola's first creation for the Legend imprint; his debut limited series is the first in an ongoing series of miniseries that Mignola will produce as his schedule allows. Mignola describes ***Hellboy*** as "a combination of Jack Kirby big-monster characters and old Ray Harryhausen stop-motion movie characters. It's also got a lot of subtlety to it. There's a lot of real moody, quiet, weeping tombstone kind of stuff. It's a little bit of everything. I really don't think there's any book out there like it, and that's part of my goal. It's actually a book that I wish someone else was doing because it's a book I'd enjoy reading."

Hellboy: Seed of Destruction #1 will also feature a new appearance of another Legend series, Art Adams' Monkeyman and O'Brien. Adams supplies a seven-page backup feature that tells the origin of the super-strong blonde and the gorilla genius.

Hellboy: Seed of Destruction #1, a $2.50 comic, is scheduled for March 24th release.

by WAYNE LEE

Third Birthday Celebration Marked By Valiant Effort

Is it true? Is Valiant Comics really three years old? Yes indeed, it's true—and what a three years it's been!

It was in early 1991 that Valiant debuted with its first title, ***Magnus: Robot Fighter***, followed soon afterwards by ***Solar, Man of the Atom***. (Well, to be wholly accurate, we should mention that Valiant truly began with a number of Nintendo-related comics that have been all but forgotten since then... but fret not, Valiant completists, these books didn't really tie in to the Valiant Universe as you know it.) From such humble beginnings, Valiant has expanded to fourteen monthly titles, with a fifteenth debuting in March (***Armorines***), and two more coming up later this year: ***StarWatchers*** and ***Ivar, the Time Walker***.

Valiant is celebrating its third birthday with a number of third birthday parties across the country—but they're not so busy celebrating that they're forgetting about the comic books that made it all possible. Later this year, Valiant will debut a major summer project, ***The Chaos Effect***, and they have a number of yearbooks and zero issues in the works, including ***Ninjak #0***. To commemorate their birthday, the guys at Valiant also produced the nifty piece of celebratory art you see on the cover of this issue of ***CSN***. What else can you ask for? Valiant turns three and their fans get the presents!

by ALEX KIRKLAND

Batman's History Is In the Cards

Can you believe that it's been a quarter of a century since Batman comic book art has been featured on trading cards? Oh, certainly there have been numerous Batman cards spotlighting the films and the animated series—but not since the 1960s have there been any Batman cards based on the comic book Batman and not the film or television Batman. That twenty-five-year dry spell is coming to an end this spring, though, with the debut of SkyBox's ***Batman: Saga of the Dark Knight Trading Cards.***

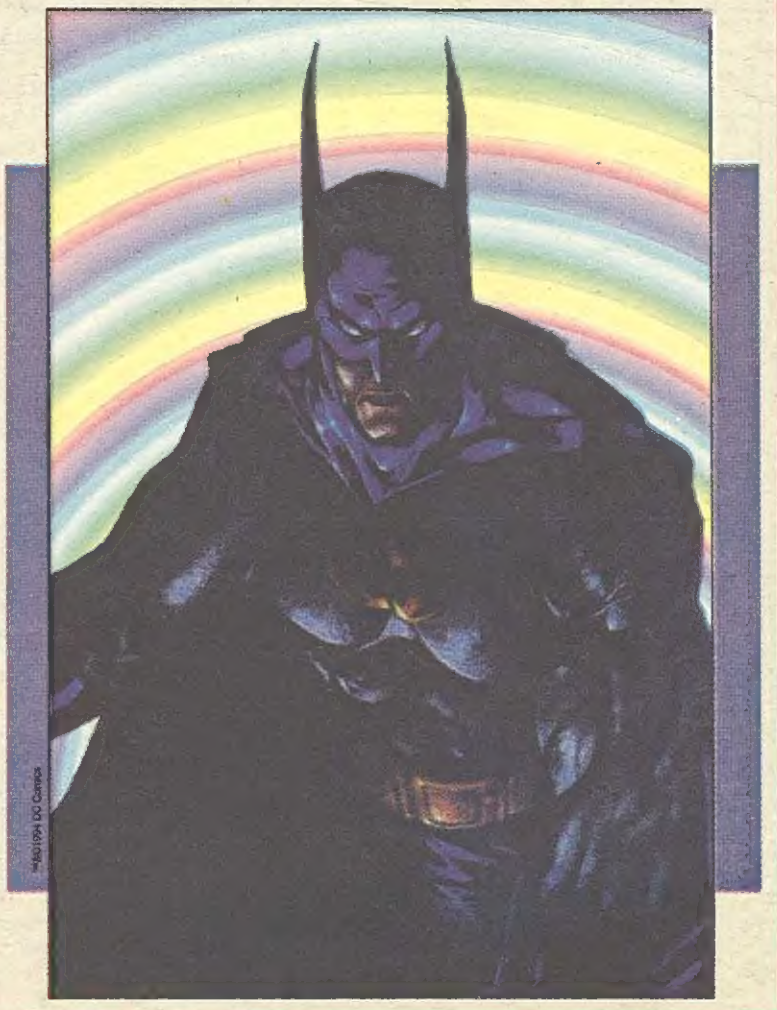
SkyBox is making these cards special in a number of ways. First, the production run is strictly limited to 13,333 individually sealed and numbered twenty-box cases. The boxes, which feature original art by Dave Dorman, are also individually numbered and are described by SkyBox as "the first-ever Spectra-etched, collectible display boxes."

Next, the cards feature a comprehensive history of Batman, beginning with the events in ***Batman: Year One*** and continuing all the way through the ***Knight-quest*** storyline. Contributing artists include a virtual who's who of Bat-illustrators, including Jim Aparo, John Bolton, Tom Grummett, Kyle Baker, and Brian Stelfreeze; all of their art is done expressly for this series.

Chase cards include five limited-edition fully painted portraits of the Dark Knight, Spectra-etched and randomly inserted in the eight-card packs. There's also a special SkyDisk™ technology card that takes 3-D to a new level. According to George White of Sky Box, "With 'SkyDisk' the image can be seen from all sides, including the back and the sides. If you lay the card down, turn it, and just add some light, then wham! The image actually stands up and moves."

SkyBox's ***Batman: Saga of the Dark Knight Trading Cards,*** priced at $2 per pack, are scheduled for mid-April release.

by LANNY LATHEM



McFarlane Spawns New Toy Line

CSN told you that *Todd McFarlane* was working to produce his own line of Spawn action figures—and now it's official. McFarlane's newly formed company, TMP Toys, unveiled six Spawn action figures, along with a play set and two vehicles, at the recent Toy Fair '94. Each figure will be packaged with a special full-sized comic book featuring the character. Hero figures include Spawn, Medieval Spawn, and Tremor; villains include the Violator, "The Clown" (Violator's alter-ego), and Overt-Kill. The Spawn Alley Play Set will be available, along with the Spawn Mobile and the Violator Monster Rig. Look for these toys later this summer.

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From Your Friendly Neighborhood Comics Outlet
Printed on 100% Recycled Newsprint

Truman Rocks With Santana

Rock-It Comix's upcoming one-issue biography of rock legend *Carlos Santana* will differ quite a bit from most other rock biographies produced by various comics companies. For one thing, the book is written and illustrated by *Tim Truman*, a critically acclaimed fan-favorite creator with over a decade of experience in the field; for another thing, it is produced with the full cooperation of the subject whose life story is being told—and is based on exclusive interviews conducted with Carlos Santana himself!

"***Santana*** is another example of how closely we work with the musical artists to tell the best story possible," Rock-It Comix editor *Robert V. Conte* said. "No secondary source could give Timothy Truman the elements he used in this story; only Carlos could. That is what makes this Rock-It title one of the most genuine biographies ever published."

Truman was eager to take part in this project, since he is quite a fan of Carlos Santana's work. "Carlos and his music opened me up. It helped me tap into my musical interests," he said, "which are still just as important as my writing and drawing. It got me interested in guitar and more important, it got me interested in aiming at something with my life." Truman also stresses that Santana's influence is more than personal. "The music Carlos and his band have done has impacted all types of music from hard rock to disco, jazz, pop, and world music. He has been almost as influential as Jimi Hendrix and Eric Clapton."

Santana #1, a $3.95 comic magazine, will be written by *Timothy Truman*, pencilled by Truman and *Tom Yeates*, and finished by Truman.

You'll Paws To Admire This Statue

If Kitchen Sink's $2000.00 bronze ***Hannah & Sabretooth Statue*** was a bit out of your price range, then perhaps you'll find the cold-cast version of the same statue a little more affordable. Based on a drawing by ***Xenozoic Tales*** creator *Mark Schultz*, this dual-figure statue is sculpted by *Clayburn Moore* and produced by the Randy Bowen Studios. Kitchen Sink is producing only five hundred of these deluxe $225 collectibles, so if you're interested, talk to the folks at your local comic shop ASAP—and tell 'em that ***CSN*** sent you!...

CSNsider

Kevin Maguire, the artist who revitalized the Justice League back in the '80s, will be illustrating a new series, Strikeback (written by *Jonathan Peterson*), for Malibu's Bravura line... Now that Marvel's crossover project with DC has been announced, is it true that Marvel may have another crossover in the works with another publisher?... Speaking of crossovers, you can look for a ***Deep Space Nine/Next Generation*** crossover later this year, courtesy of Malibu and DC... Two publishers have already expressed an interest in the ***Lost In Space*** series that went into limbo with the demise of Innovation Comics... SuperPatriot is returning in a second limited series, produced by the same *Erik Larsen-Keith Giffen-Dave Johnson* creative team responsible for the first series... A new ***Badger*** series is in the works from Dark Horse, with a very surprising artist who'll make some fans *deliriously* happy... DC's ***Chain Gang War,*** a top-notch series that deserves far more attention than it's getting, is ending with a real bang with the twelfth issue; Batman'll be on hand for the pyrotechnics... ***Omaha the Cat Dancer*** is making the move from long-time publisher Kitchen Sink to Fantagraphics later this year... Some major, almost *unbelievable* changes are in the works for Spider-Man later this year... So which comics publisher has shown a very active interest in *Robert A. Heinlein*'s ***Glory Road, Podkayne of Mars,*** and ***Stranger In a Strange Land***?... ***Ninja High School*** is returning to original publisher Antarctic Comics beginning with ***NHS #40***...

KnightsEnd Marks the Dawn of a New Batman?...

The new Batman's aggressive, brutal attitude is nothing that the Bruce Wayne Batman would have been proud of... as Batman readers are soon to discover. In ***Robin #7,*** the finale of Knightquest, Bruce Wayne returns to Gotham City and learns from Robin just what the new Batman had been up to; deeply concerned about Batman's methods and attitude, Bruce Wayne confronts his successor face to face, paving the way for the new storyline, KnightsEnd, that begins in ***Batman #509***. And further complicating Tim Drake's life, his father returns to Gotham City; the fact that his father is still alive is certainly good news, but his presence in Gotham certainly makes Tim's active life as Robin more difficult. ***Robin #7,*** a crucial issue in the Batman storyline, is written by *Chuck Dixon* and illustrated by *Tom Grummett* and *Ray Kryssing*; look for it on May 5th.

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Down In the Valley

Don Lomax's ***Vietnam Journal,*** which has been missing from the comic shop racks in recent months, returns this spring in ***Vietnam Journal: Valley of Death #1,*** the premiere issue of a new ***Vietnam Journal*** limited series. ***Valley of Death*** tells the story of the U.S. High Command's decision to launch an attack on Vietnam's A Shau Valley, a thick jungle that was also the site of one of the Viet Cong's most important supply lines. When the attack goes wrong, Scott "Journal" Neithammer finds himself stranded on the floor of the Valley of Death. ***Vietnam Journal: Valley of Death #1,*** a $2.75 comic, is scheduled for late March release.

The Moretti, the Merrier

Mark Moretti, the Valiant Comics writer/illustrator who has handled the story end of Ninjak since the series' beginning, will take over as artist of Ninjak beginning with the fourth issue. His illustrations of the character may seem pretty familiar, since Moretti has produced much of the promotional art for the character since Ninjak's inception. Original illustrator *Joe Quesada* will leave the book after the third issue. According to Valiant's vice-president of marketing Marty Stever, Quesada removed himself from the book after falling behind on the monthly schedule. These changes should not create any sort of a delay in the release of the book; Ninjak should continue to appear on a monthly schedule.

IMAGE'S HOTTEST NEW COMIC TURNS UP THE HEAT

MARC SILVESTRI'S CODENAME: STRYKE FORCE TAKES ON JIM LEE'S STORMWATCH

CODENAME: STRYKEFORCE #s 4,5,6.

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The Song Remains the Same But the Cover's New!...

X-Cutioner's Song, the riveting mutant story that ran through ***Uncanny X-Men, X-Factor, X-Force,*** and ***X-Men*** last year, will return to comic shops in early '94 in a 280-page trade paperback edition. This story, one of the most popular X-Men plotlines in the past few years, features the mutants versus Stryfe, X-Force versus X-Factor, Archangel versus Apocalypse, and more! *Joe Madureira* and *Terry Austin* supply the new cover for this massive trade paperback. ***X-Men: X-Cutioner's Song,*** a $24.95 trade paperback featuring a metallic foil-stamped cover, is scheduled for April 7th release.

A Pair of Strange Tales

So who is Dr. Stevens—and for that matter, who is "Strange"? Not only have readers of Dr. Strange been wondering, but so have a number of heroes in the Marvel universe—including the Midnight Sons. Everyone finds out just what's going on when the final two installments of the "Strangers Among Us" storyline reach comics shops in late April. Writer *David Quinn* tells readers just what's going on—and at the same time, he brings back Clea at long last. The penultimate chapter appears in ***Dr. Strange #66***, illustrated by *Melvin Rubi* and *Fred Harper;* the story continues into ***Dr. Strange Annual #4,*** illustrated by *Kyle Hotz. Mark Buckingham* supplies the covers for both books; look for them on April 28th.

The Parliament of Stones Takes Nothing For Granite

Comics fans may not know what's in store for Alec Holland and Swamp Thing, but the Parliament of Stones knows... and they're already making plans for the next stage in Swamp Thing's evolution. Alec Holland and Abigail Arcane would like to learn just what those plans are, so they venture into the Louisiana bayous to learn the truth about the murderous swamp creature in ***Swamp Thing #145***. This issue features the finale to the "Bad Gumbo" storyline, revealing just what's in store for Swamp Thing in the near future. Alas, it also marks *Grant Morrison*'s last issue as co-writer of the Vertigo title; beginning with ***Swamp Thing #144***, *Mark Millar* takes over as sole writer of the title. ***Swamp Thing #145,*** a $1.95 comic illustrated by *Philip Hester* and *Kim DeMulder,* is scheduled for April 28th release.

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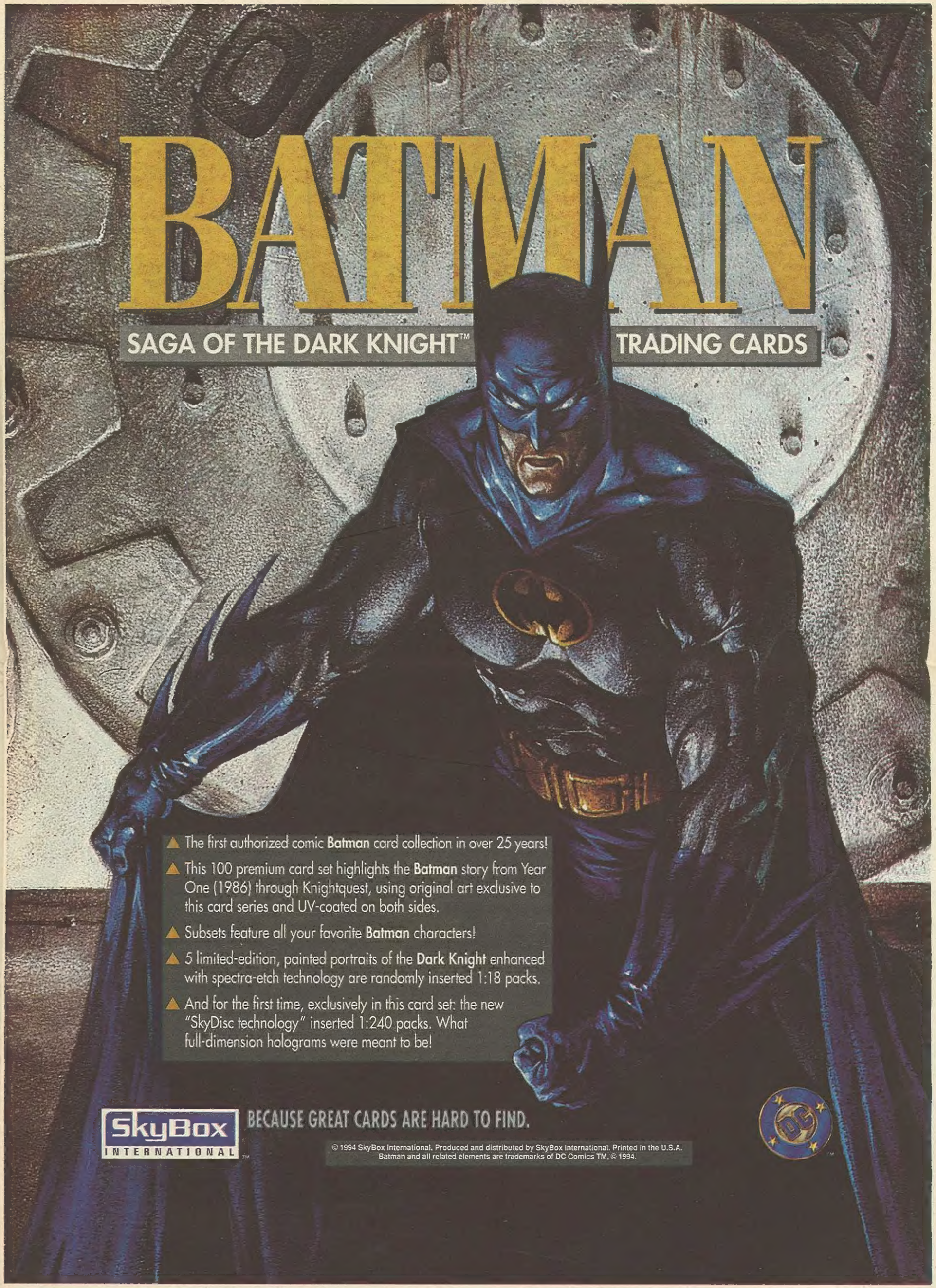
BATMAN

SAGA OF THE DARK KNIGHT™ TRADING CARDS



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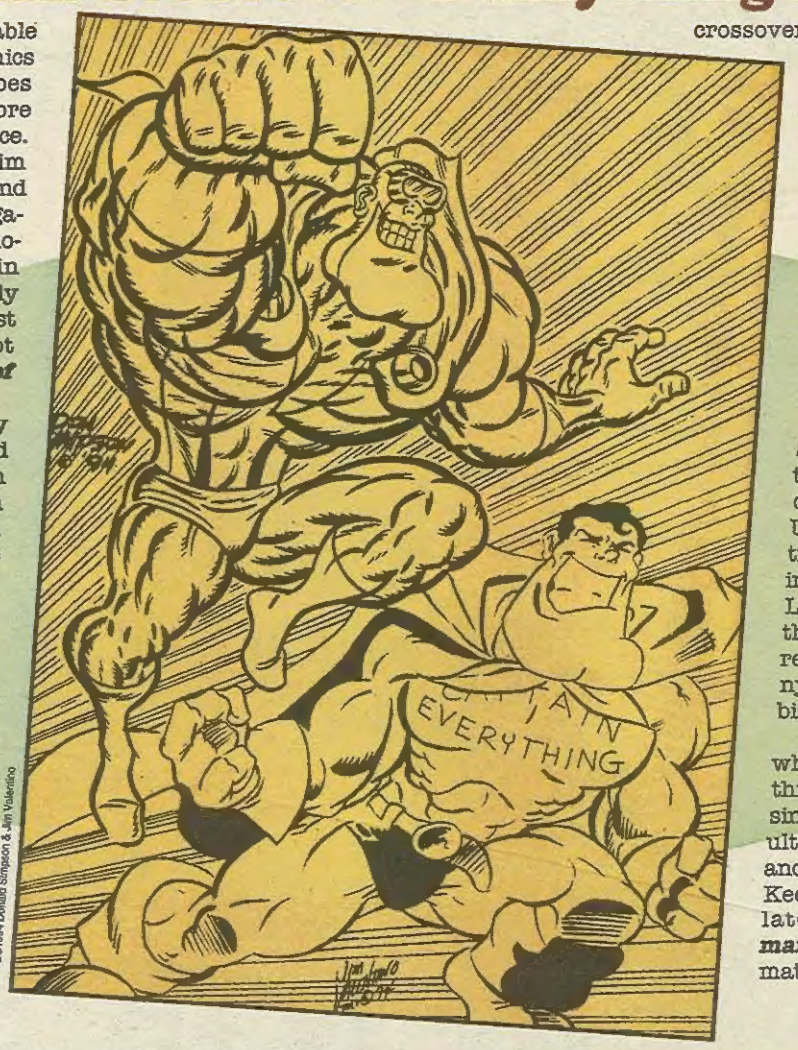
This Megaton Man Crossover Is Anything But Normal, Man

Man oh man! There have been memorable crossover adventures in the history of comics books involving some of the greatest heroes and villains in the medium, but never before now have two spoof heroes come face to face. That'll all change in July, though, when Jim Valentino's normalman returns to comics—and comes face to face with Don Simpson's Megaton Man. (For those of you with long memories, this crossover was first hinted at in ***CSN*'s *Image Comics Special,*** released in early '93.) Furthermore, they won't be alone: guest stars include Bob Burden's Flaming Carrot and Larry Marder's Mr. Spook (from ***Tales of the Beanworld***), among others.

"Frankly, it's time to settle the rivalry that has persisted between Megaton Man and normalman once and for all," Don Simpson said. "That bratty little normalman has been a thorn in my side since the beginning, and fans have been clamoring for a showdown to see who is stronger, Megaton Man or Captain Everything [the superlative hero from normalman]! Like there could be any doubt!"

Jim Valentino doesn't see everything in quite the same light, however. "Megaton Man muddied the waters for the entire superhero spoof genre in the mid-1980s," Valentino said. "I'm sick and tired of Simpson and his crummy character, and my man Captain Everything is going to stomp him in the dirt once and for all. Besides, I'm an Image guy now and with the Flaming Carrot refereeing, I feel confident in predicting a knockout by the fourth round!"

This won't be Megaton Man's debut at Image; he has previously co-starred in a crossover one-shot, ***The Savage Dragon Vs. the Savage Megaton Man,*** co-produced by Simpson and Erik Larsen. He's also one of the recurring stars of Don Simpson's Bizarre Heroes, a black-and-white monthly series Simpson is publishing under the Fiasco Comics imprint beginning this May.



™&©1994 Donald Simpson & Jim Valentino

The grudge match is already heating up. "Megaton Man has kept up his training and is looking forward to proving he's still the champ in this coming bout," Simpson said—to which Valentino replies, "We'll see who's left standing after the final bell. My people tell me Megaton Man has a glass jaw, and a lousy left."

The series picks up after the events of ***Splitting Image #8***, when Megaton Man, Captain Everything, and Mr. Spook are turned down for membership in the Splitting Image Universe. "The Flaming Carrot shows up, and tries to assist the group in selling out and finding a commercially successful universe to join," Larry Marder, creator of Mr. Spook, said. "On their odyssey, they encounter many strange and remarkable personalities, which bear an uncanny resemblance to certain people in the comics biz!"

"I haven't shown my funny side in quite a while," Valentino said. "I've seen a great many things worthy of ridicule in the comics industry since my days on normalman. Regardless of who ultimately wins, rest assured that Don Simpson and I are going to skewer every last one of them!" Keep an eye on the pages of ***CSN*** to find out the latest developments concerning the ***normalman/Megaton Man Special,*** featuring the grudge match of '94.

by WAYNE LEE

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DAREDEVIL ANNUAL #10
THE DEVIL AND THE GHOST
Shang Chi guest stars when the sinister Snakeroot resurrects the martial arts assassin, Ghost Maker, to make ghosts out of Daredevil and Elektra in a tale brought to you by Greg Wright and Kris Renkewitz. Plus the Black Widow begins to investigate the murder of her former lover, Matt Murdock. By Mindy Newell and Sergio Cariello.

TIME AND TIME AGAIN
NEW WARRIORS #47
ACROSS TIME AND SPACE
The Warriors battle the Sphinxes, and lose big-time, as team members are scattered across time and space to a fate worse than death. This story begins a multi-part crossover with NIGHT THRASHER and NOVA leading into the double-sized NEW WARRIORS #50. Don't miss this high-powered excitement from Fabian Nicieza, and a host of artists, old and new– one of which will be the new regular penciler starting with issue #51!

VENOM: THE MACE #1 OF 3
HE'S GONNA KNOCK A CHIP OFF THE OLD BROCK
Witness the debut of the techno-ninja Mace as he goes up against Venom. And watch what happens when Venom finds out that the people he protects in the underground city are not all so innocent? Printed on glossy stock with a multi-level embossed cover. By Carl Potts and Liam Sharp.

SPIDER-MAN FLEER CARD PREVIEW
SPIDEY CARDS ARE BOUND TO BE A HIT!
April marks the introduction of the first-ever set of Spider-Man Trading Cards by Mark Bagley. But all this month, there'll be one of three three-card previews bound into all of Marvel's ongoing super hero titles. This week, cards appear in HELLSTORM #14, NEW WARRIORS #47, PUNISHER 2099 #16, SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #212, and X-FORCE #34.

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Readers' Red K Awards

Back in* Comic Shop News *#344, we presented our Fifth Annual Red K Awards, recognizing the great and not-so-great achievements of the past year in the comic book industry. We then invited readers to write in with their own Red K Awards... and we got a record number of contributions from our readership, who certainly had some pretty strong feelings, both positive and negative, about the past year in comics. Some of you ignored or request to "keep your gibes gentle," we must report—but even ignoring those few extremely harsh responses, we found a plethora of interesting, though-provoking, and sometimes amusing awards to fill up the Reader's Red K Awards. So now, without further ado, here's what you guys had to say!

The "Now This Is An Annual" Award

Eternal Warrior Yearbook

"Nowadays, most companies use annuals as tryouts for their newest and most mediocre talent. Not Valiant, though; instead, they brought in a top-class talent team and the result was probably the best single Eternal Warrior story all year. I hope everyone else is taking notes... if all annuals were this good, maybe I'd buy more of them..."

—The Mystery Fan (hey, we just report 'em...)

The Excellence in Lettercols Award

Cerebus
Sin City II: A Dame to Kill For
John Byrne's Next Men

"Not only do these guys do great comic books, but they have some of the most fun letters columns in the industry. As a letterhack wannabe, I admire a creator who'll take the time to do his own lettercol."

—"Mad"Mark Koehler

The "If You Don't Have Time For the Comics, Read the Book" Award

The Death & Life of Superman by Roger Stern

"This is one of the few times I know of when the novel is shorter than the comic book version of the same story. Not only that, but the novel also gave away a lot of neat things coming up that the comic books didn't tell about..."

—Lee Silverman

The Allergic Rash Award

The Good Guys

"I like the book's story, heroes, and art, but the coloring really needs some help. I don't know if it's actually the coloring or just a problem with the printing, but this is the worst-looking, blotchiest book I've ever seen. Everyone looks like they're breaking out with a really bad skin rash."

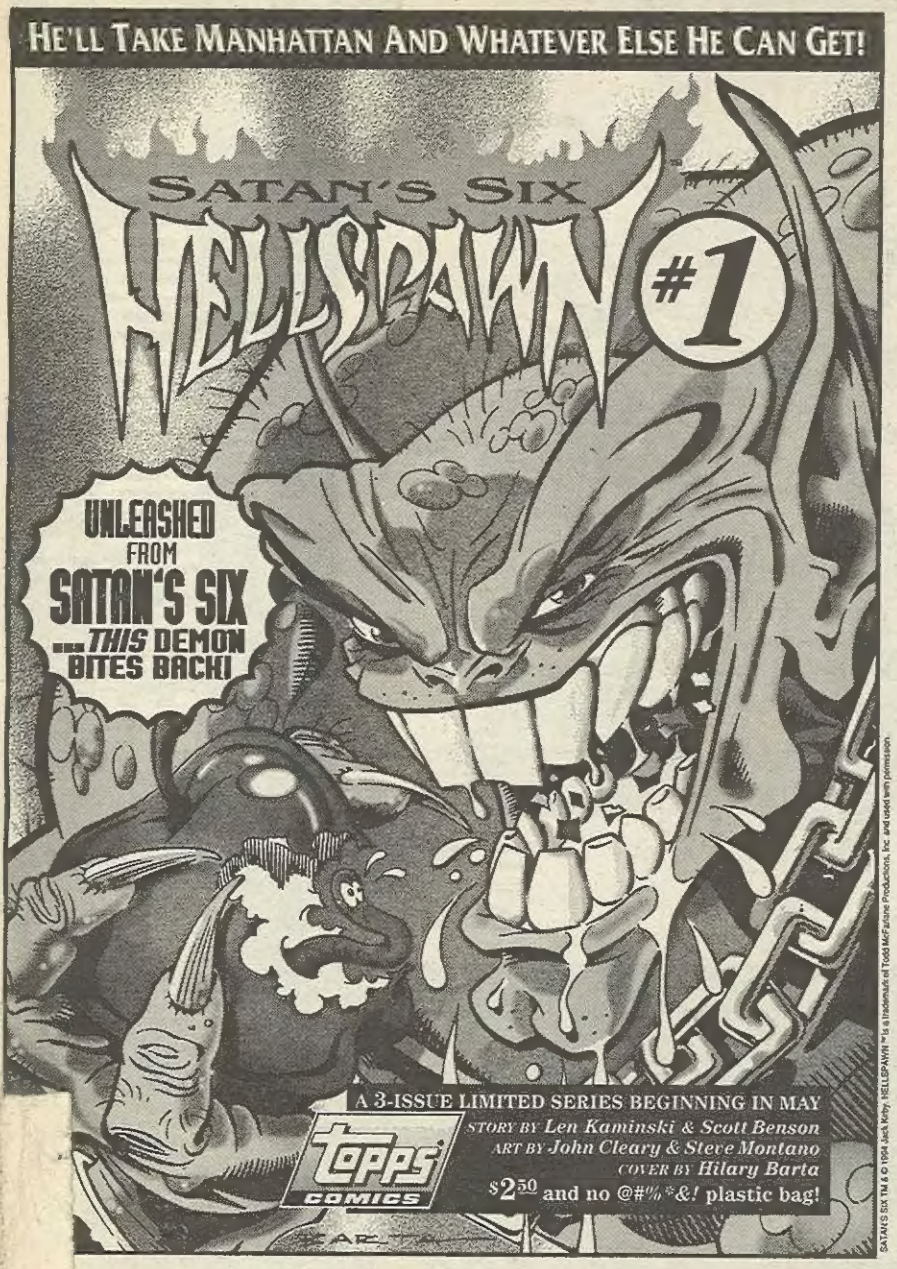
—Kelly Anders

The MIA Awards (Hero)

Bruce Wayne

"The most fascinating and courageous character in the aftermath of the Knightfall series is, as always, Bruce Wayne. He was The Batman for more than fifty years, yet fans have to wait months and hop from title to title to find out what's happened to Master Bruce since he lost the cape and cowl. And isn't it bad enough that DC broke his back; must they also draw him so that he's now a ringer for Michael Keaton, receding hairline and all?"

—Geoffrey Johnson


HE'LL TAKE MANHATTAN AND WHATEVER ELSE HE CAN GET!
SATAN'S SIX
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Matt Murdock
"Didn't they do this before in the 1960's, with Mike Murdock?..."
—*Donald Purves*

Reed Richards
"How can they stretch out what should be a two-month 'return' to fill up an entire year?"
—*Kathryn Johns*

Rocketeer
"Don't forget about us, Dave!..."
—*Clay Linemann*

Badger
"Didn't you guys say that he was coming back?..."
—*Drew Macurack*

The MIA Awards (Villains)

Doomsday

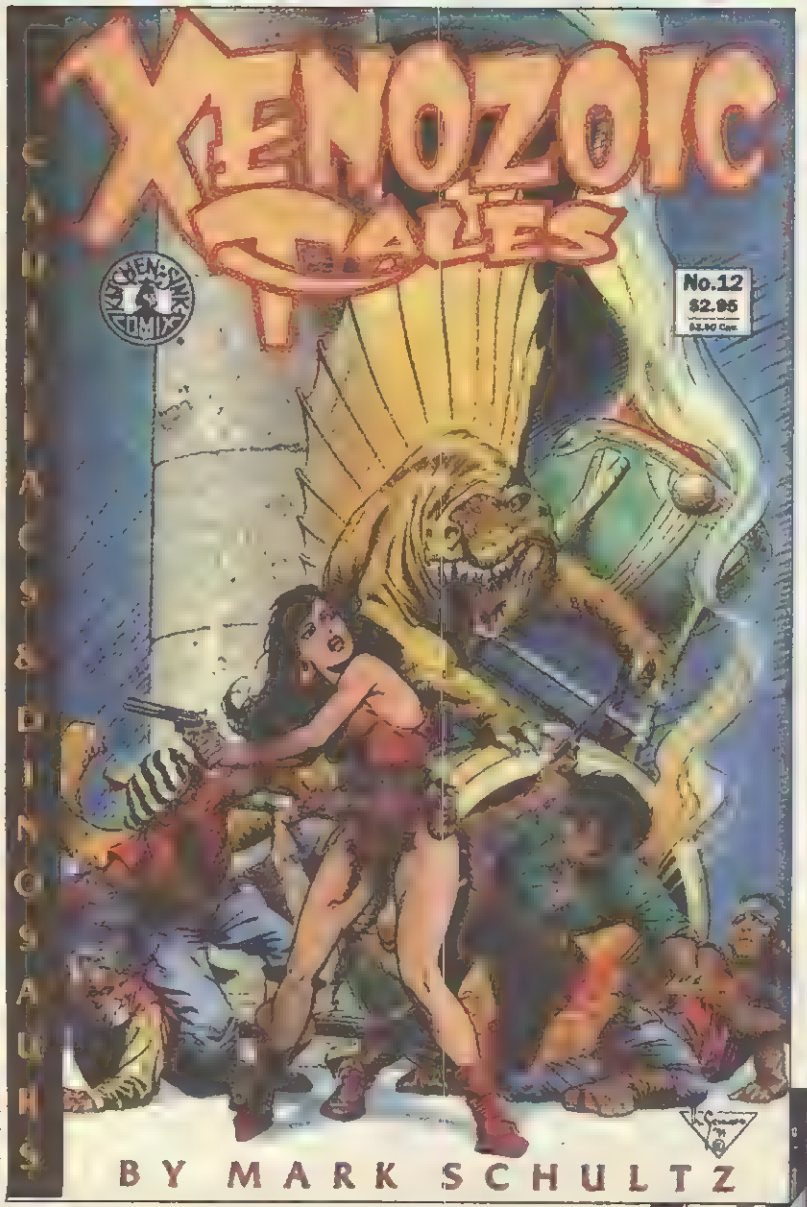
"Hey, don't stretch this stuff out! You made it clear back in the summer that Doomsday was still alive; so why are we having to wait until the middle of 1994 to see the inevitable rematch?"
—*Billy McLendon*

Dr. Doom
"He's dead!.... Yeah, right. Is there anyone who believes that one for a minute? (Probably the same people who believe that Reed Richards'll never be seen again...)
—*Curtis Vorster*

The Improving Image Award

Image Comics

"Everyone has been really quick to jump on Image for not getting books out on time. As an Image fan from the very beginning, though, I think that someone should speak up for them. They've been putting out books every week now for months, and most of their books are pretty much back on schedule now. They're really trying to overcome their lateness problem, and I think they'll do it in '94."
—*Carl Humphries*



The "Testing 1,2,3" Award

Deathmate

"This series was so far off schedule that the *Epilogue* appeared before *Deathmate Red*, which was due much earlier!"
—*Tony Bowers*

The Jean Grey Award

Cable, Stryfe, Stealth, Niles Caulder, Katma Tui Stewart, Magneto, and Elektra

"All dead, they got better in '93."
—*Steven Robinson*

The Cost-Conscious Award

Marvel & DC

"The Big Two have to put up with a lot of criticism because they are the Big Two, but people also should notice that they're the only companies that published a number of books at $1.25 and $1.50 last year, when everyone else was charging a minimum of $1.95 (and usually $2.50) for the same type of comic. The only way the field will ever get more readers is if the cost of starting off in comics is low enough that kids can afford it."
—*Eddie LeCroy*

(We feel the need to insert at least one minor editorial comment here: Archie & Disney and Harvey have also released a large number of $1.25-$1.50 comics in the past year, so they should at least share in this well-deserved moment of recognition.)

The "Phenom of the Year" Award

Stephen Platt

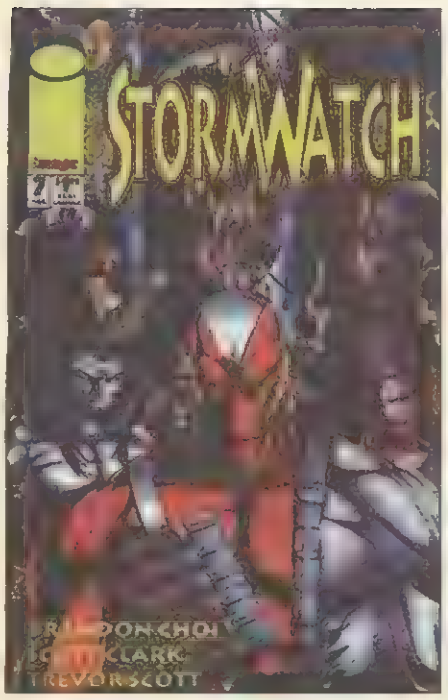
"What a debut! Todd McFarlane, look out!"
—*Steve Owenby*

Sometimes our readers don't always agree. That can be no clearer than in these awards, which we run without further comment...

The "You Can Teach An Old Dog New Tricks" Award

Aquaman

"Did anyone ever expect to see a good Aqua-



The "Everything But the Comic" Award

Xenozoic Tales by Mark Schultz

"In the last two years, we've gotten posters, prints, serigraphs, lapel pints, shirts, jackets, candy bars, candy boxes, video games, cartoons, postcards, reprints, collected volumes (softcover, hardcover, signed and limited hardcover), $2000 bronze statues, $200 cold-cast statues, and in the near future, portfolios, bolo ties, CD's, and toys!

"Whatever happened to the *comic book*? It started out as a bi-monthly, then a quarterly, then twice yearly, then yearly—now, at last count, it's bi-yearly!!! Hey, Mark—why don't you give the fans who helped make Xenozoic Tales such a hit what they really want: the actual comic book!"
—*Andrew Steven* (who adds in closing, "Please print this, as it's voiced by every ***Xeno*** fans I know!")

The Noteworthy Comics Award

Rock-it Comix

"It's nice to see a little integrity in the comics field. Rather than ripping off musicians with unlicensed books, Malibu is actually doing it right and paying for the rights to these rock comics. This is what everyone should have been doing..."
—*Jerry Clark*

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The "Truth In Advertising" Award

Triumphant Comics' Numbering Policy

"All these other publishers give us ridiculous guarantees that they'll never print over a hundred thousand copies, or over two hundred and fifty thousand copies. Yeah, like they have a chance in the world of selling that many books! Triumphant does the

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man series? To be fair, I've heard that the book was pretty good for a little while in the 1960's, but I wasn't around back then... I'd given up on anyone doing a decent Aquaman story until Peter David and Brad Vancata proved that the hero wasn't a dud after all. Great work!..."

—Eddie LeCroy

The "Missing Mythos" Award

H.P. Lovecraft's Cthulhu Mythos

"Why doesn't someone just do a faithful comic adaptation of the HPL Cthulhu series? Every time someone says they're going to bring Lovecraft to comics, they screw around with it until it becomes another piece of horror garbage that has nothing in common with the great Lovecraft stories."

—Ian Kelley

The "Bygone Days" Award

The Protectors

"At one time, Malibu Comics had a reason to publish this superhero series. Now that the Ultraverse stuff is doing so well, though, no one remembers these guys... and, to be honest, they seem pretty forgettable compared to the ultra-cool Ultraverse books."

—Sean Vincent

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RAI AND THE FUTURE FORCE
AND THE END OF THE MALEV WAR
MAGNUS™ ROBOT FIGHTER #37
RAI AND™ THE FUTURE FORCE #22
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David Dorn
Rodney Ramos
VALIANT
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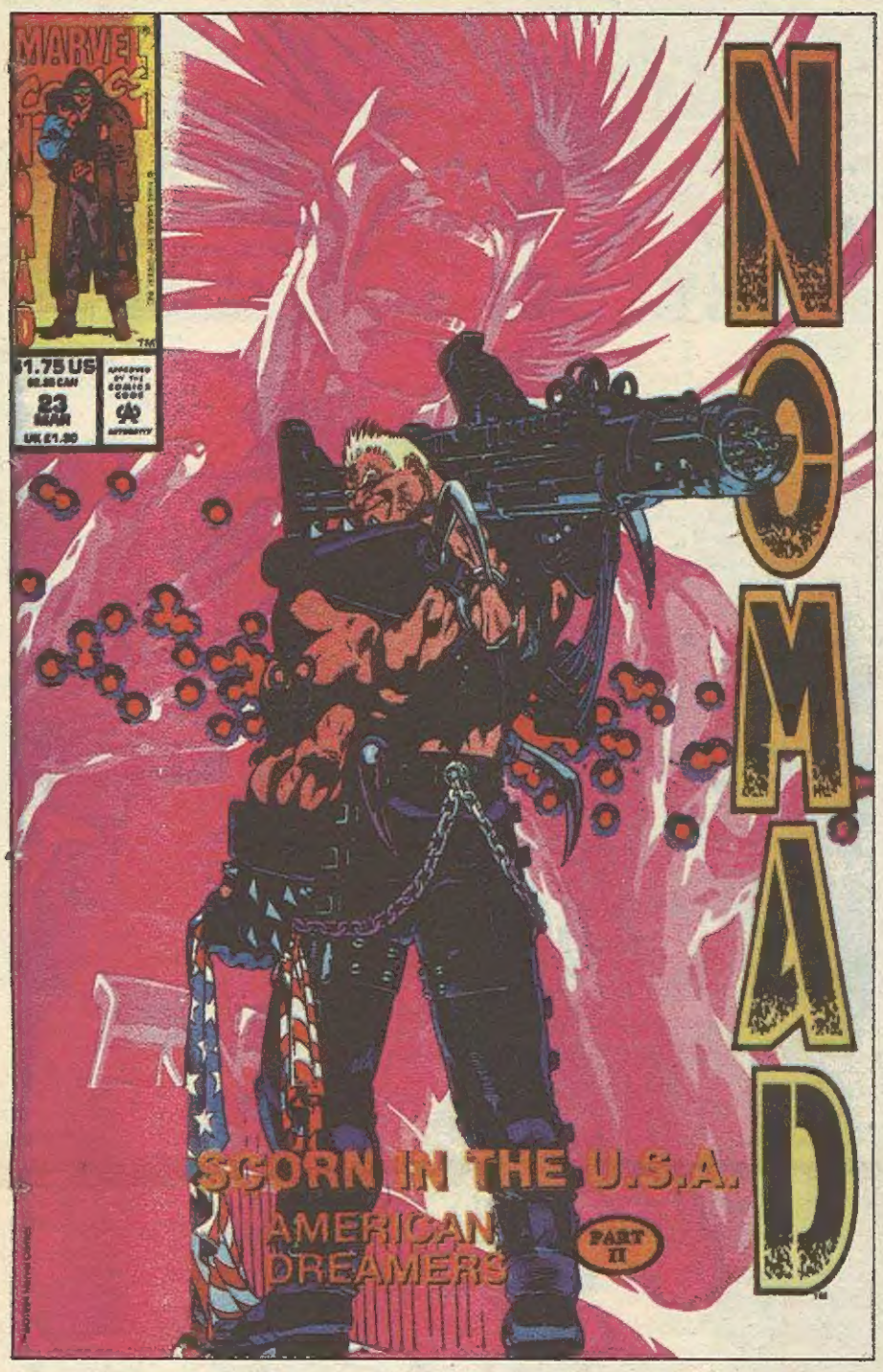


honest thing and just puts the number of copies printed on the top of the book. Good move!"

—"Mad" Mark Koehler

The Watchmen Award

Nomad

"How did so many people overlook this great comic book? Everyone praised ***Watchmen*** for presenting superheroes in a realistic, believable way; ***Nomad*** does that just as well, and it offers a much more believable view of life in modern America as a bonus. I hear that this book is coming to an end, and I hate that, because I think ***Nomad*** is one of the best books Marvel has ever produced... If Marvel had put a hot artist on this comic, I think it would have been one of their most popular titles...."

—Craig Wheeler

The "It's Tougher Than It Looks" Award

Clive Barker & Razorline

"You would think that someone like Clive Barker, who writes such great novels and short stories, would do really great at comics, wouldn't you? Razorline was a disappointment for all of us Barker fans, though; I guess writing comics must be different from writing great stories and novels... That must be why we don't have ***Leo Tolstoy's Comics & Stories...***"

—Howie Veltner

The "Fooled Me Once" Award

Continuity Comics

"I used to think that the name Continuity was a commitment; now I realize that it's a joke. After these guys turned their first mega-crossover ***Deathwatch 2000*** storyline into the biggest joke in comics (parts appearing out of order, some parts never appearing at all, other parts available only as expensive promo books), do they really expect us to even attempt to read their Rise of Magic stuff? C'mon, have some respect for our intelligence out here!"

—Vince Moyeldin

"Back to Basics" Award

Legionnaires

"The Legion started off as an exciting, upbeat adventure series about a group of teenage heroes; it's about time that they returned to that idea again. These are the Legionnaires I remember... even if they aren't the Legionnaires I remember (?)."

—Gary Hamner

The Over-Priced Award

All Those Price Guides

"How many price guides do we need? And why is there such a world of difference in price of the same book between one guide and another? And am I the only one who finds Hero Illustrated's price guide pretty much worthless, since it doesn't really list prices at all?..."

—Jerry Clark

The "Role Model" Award

Mary Jane Watson Parker

"Hooray! After virtually glorifying smoking for several issues, they finally had Mary Jane throw away her cigarettes. Great move...it showed a lot of responsibility to their audience."

—Sara Black

The "Time To Retire" Award

RoboCop
Indiana Jones

"The movies that inspired these comics may have been pretty good, but the books are just plain dull."

—Michael Lyerly

The "Swing And A Miss" Award

Heavy Hitters

"Who'd have thought that a company as good as Marvel could bring in a bunch of creators as good as this and end up with such grade-B comic books..."

—Bob Edenfield

The "Immortality Is Brief" Award

On a Pale Horse

"This five-issue limited series adapted Piers Anthony's first Incarnations of Immortality award, but you'd have to be almost immortal to keep up with it, since the first four issues took about four years to come out. And now the company's out of business before the series is finished up... I guess the book's character is immortal, but the publisher certainly isn't."

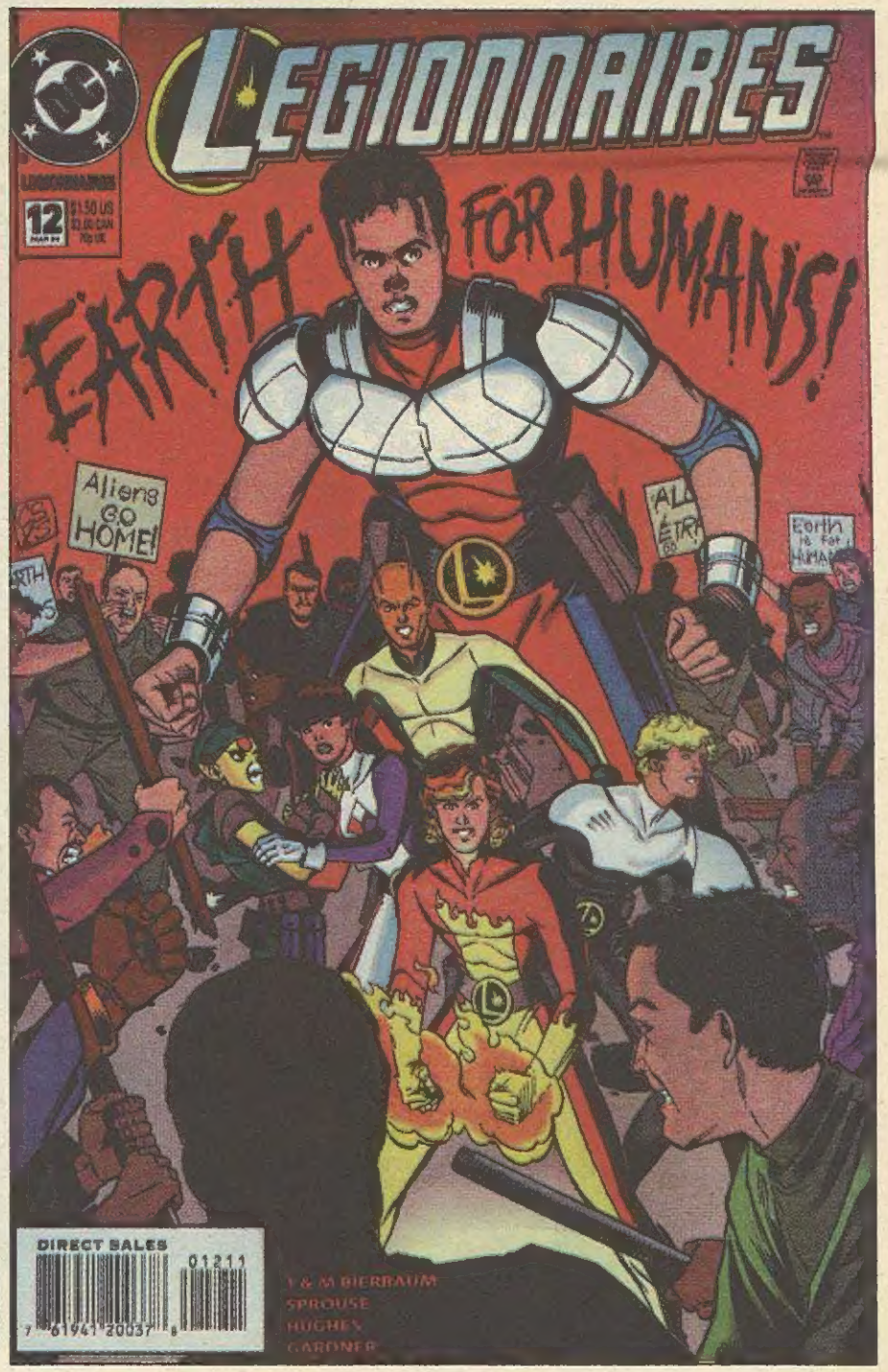
—Christine Freeman

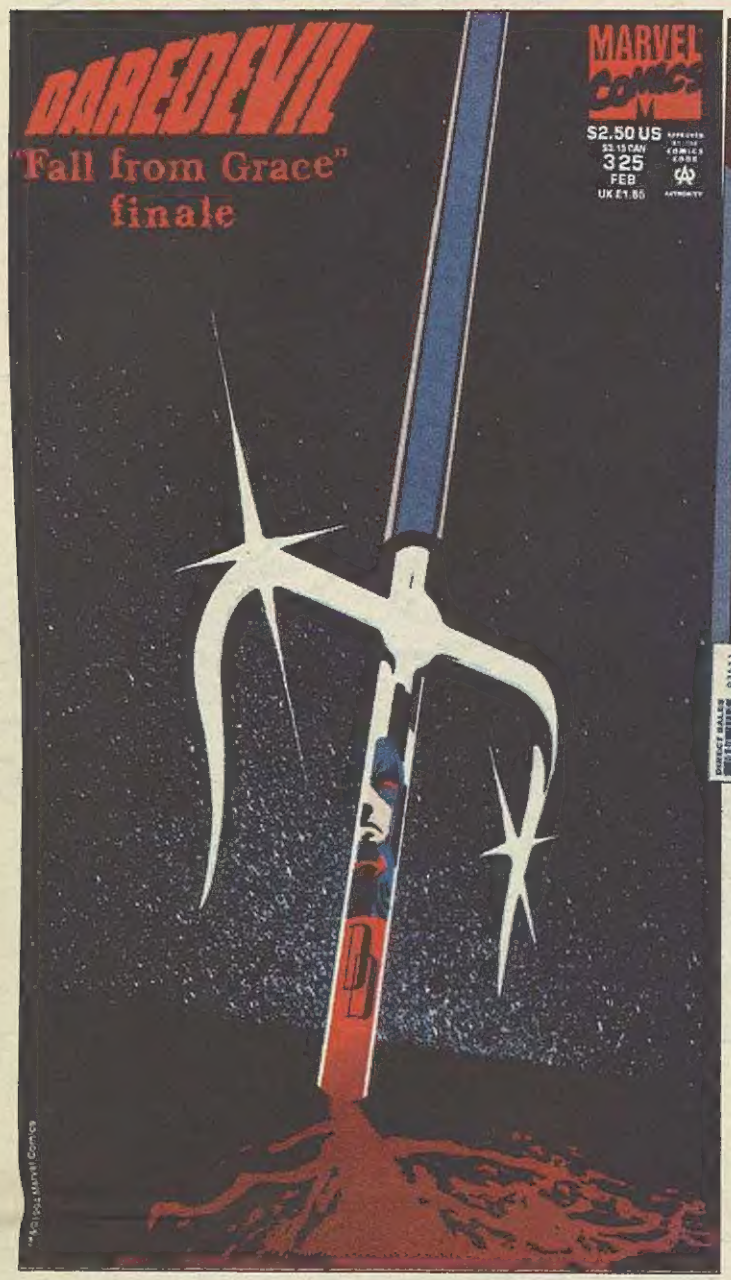
The "What a Figure" Award

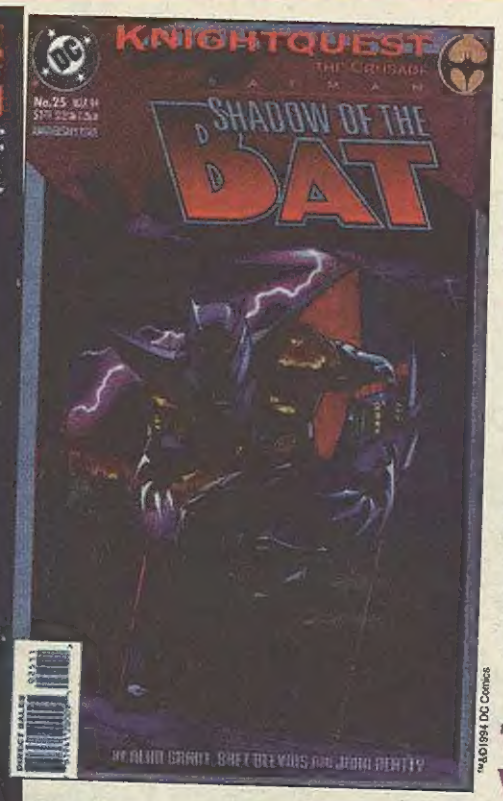
Batman Animated Action Figures

"These figures look more like the characters from the cartoons than any other action figure series ever has. I don't normally buy action figures, but I had to have the Batman figures..."

—Beau Mitchell







The Best New Costume of '93 Award

Daredevil
"What Batman's should have been..."
—Steven Robinson

Batman
"Now *this* is a costume that would strike fear in the hearts of criminals!"
—Shelley McCray

The Worst New Costume of '93 Award

Batman

"I'm sorry, but I just can't see this faceless, clanking wan-nabe Iron Man replacing Goth-am's Dark Knight detective."
—Steven Robinson (also contributed by Michael Alexander, Brian Semones, Ty Cook, and Allen Lienhorn)

The Best Line of '93 Award

"I'm a Touchstone guy in a Walt Disney world."—Alec Swan, ***Firearm* #2.**
—Steven Robinson

Daredevil
"Who decided to get rid of one of the classiest costumes ever designed and replace it with this generic armored piece of crap?"
—Charles Studdard (also contributed by Donald Purves)

The "I Need a Vacation" Award

Ron Lim
Mike W. Barr

"Is there any book that these guys *didn't* write or draw in '93?"
—Tony Bowers

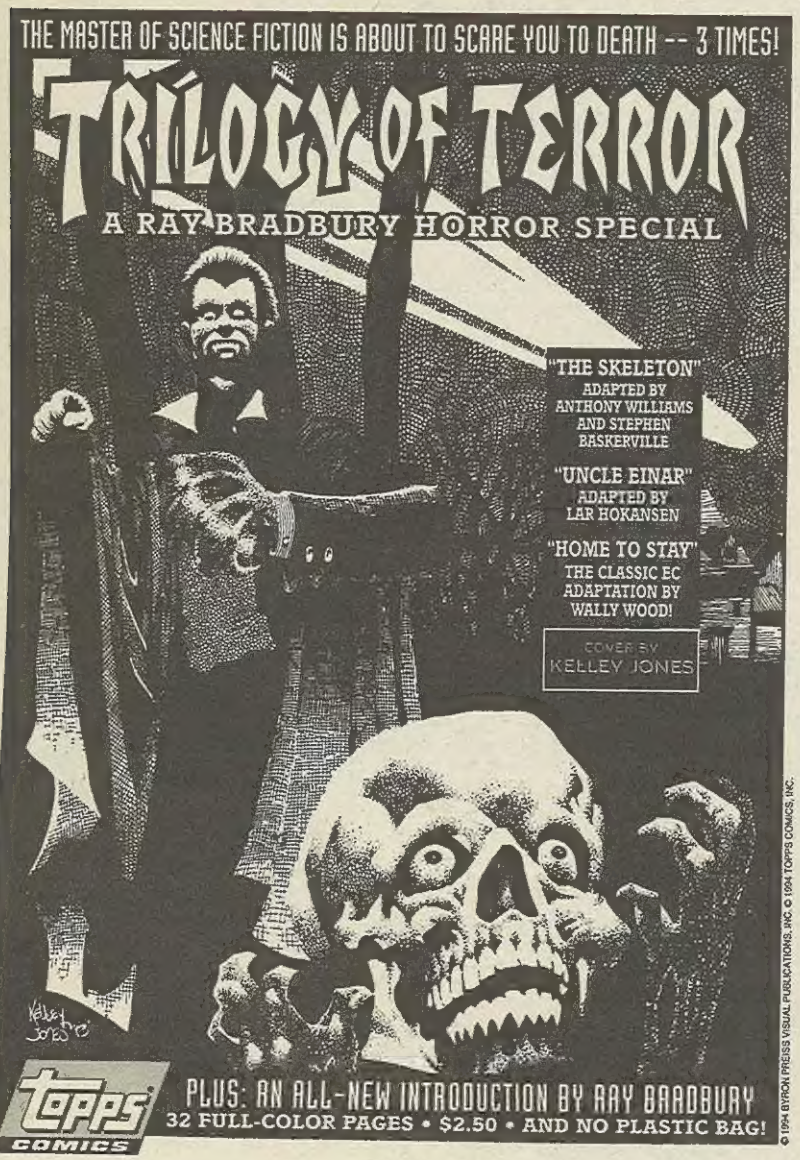
And we can't leave without mentioning this award... (and once you read it, you'll see why):

The "Keepin' the Faith" Award

CSN

"Every week, you CSN guys seem to really have a good time talking about comic books. A lot of publications have a snide, negative attitude towards comics, but not CSN. Thanks for seeming to enjoy comics as much as I do!..."
—Kelly Andersen

And that does it for another year's CSN Red K Fan Awards. You'll see us here again in early '95, presenting our Sixth Annual Awards—and we hope that you'll contribute your list of winners and losers at that time! Thanks to all who contributed... and if we couldn't run all your awards, it doesn't mean that we didn't read 'em and enjoy 'em! Thanks again for taking part, everybody!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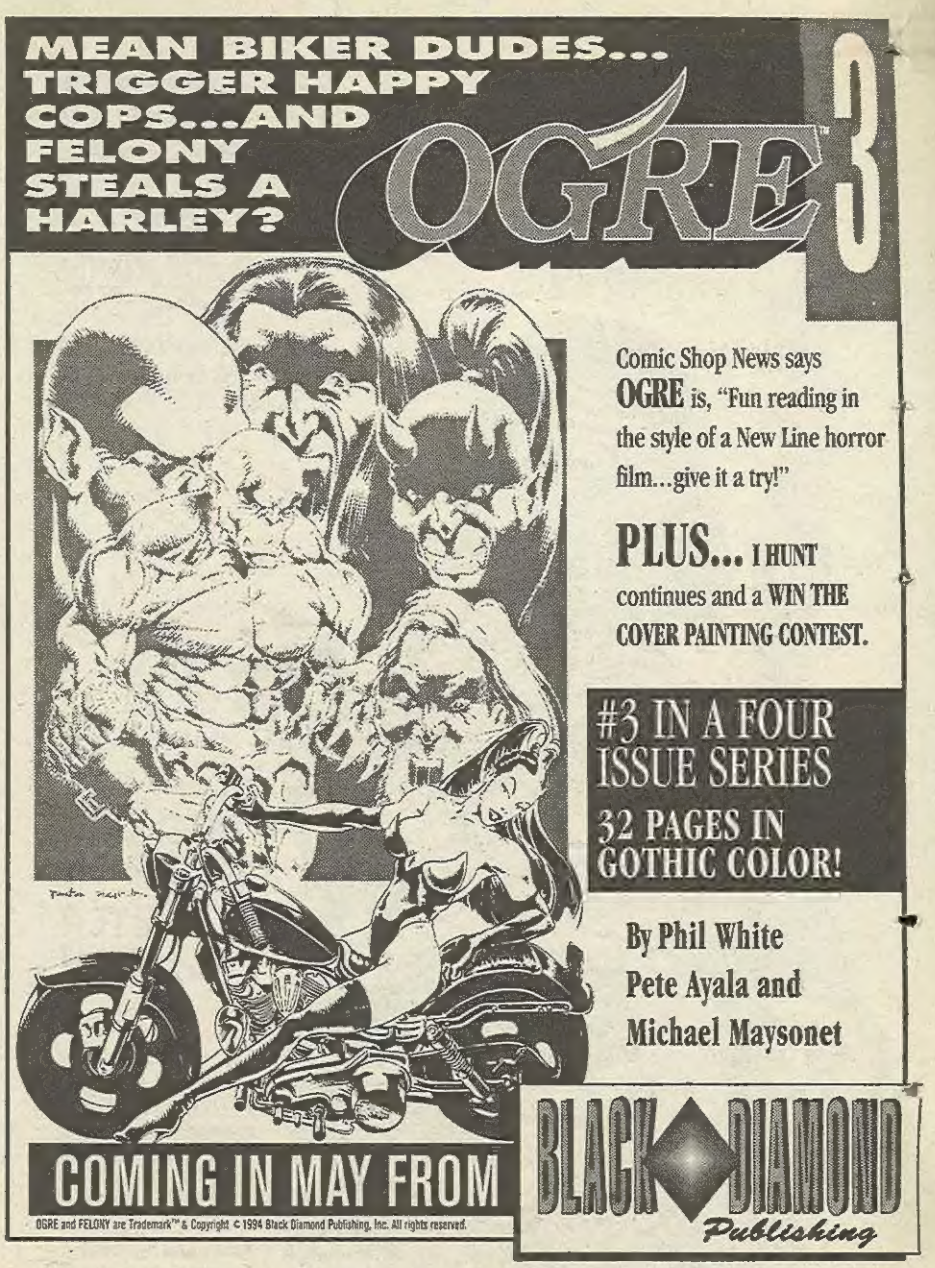
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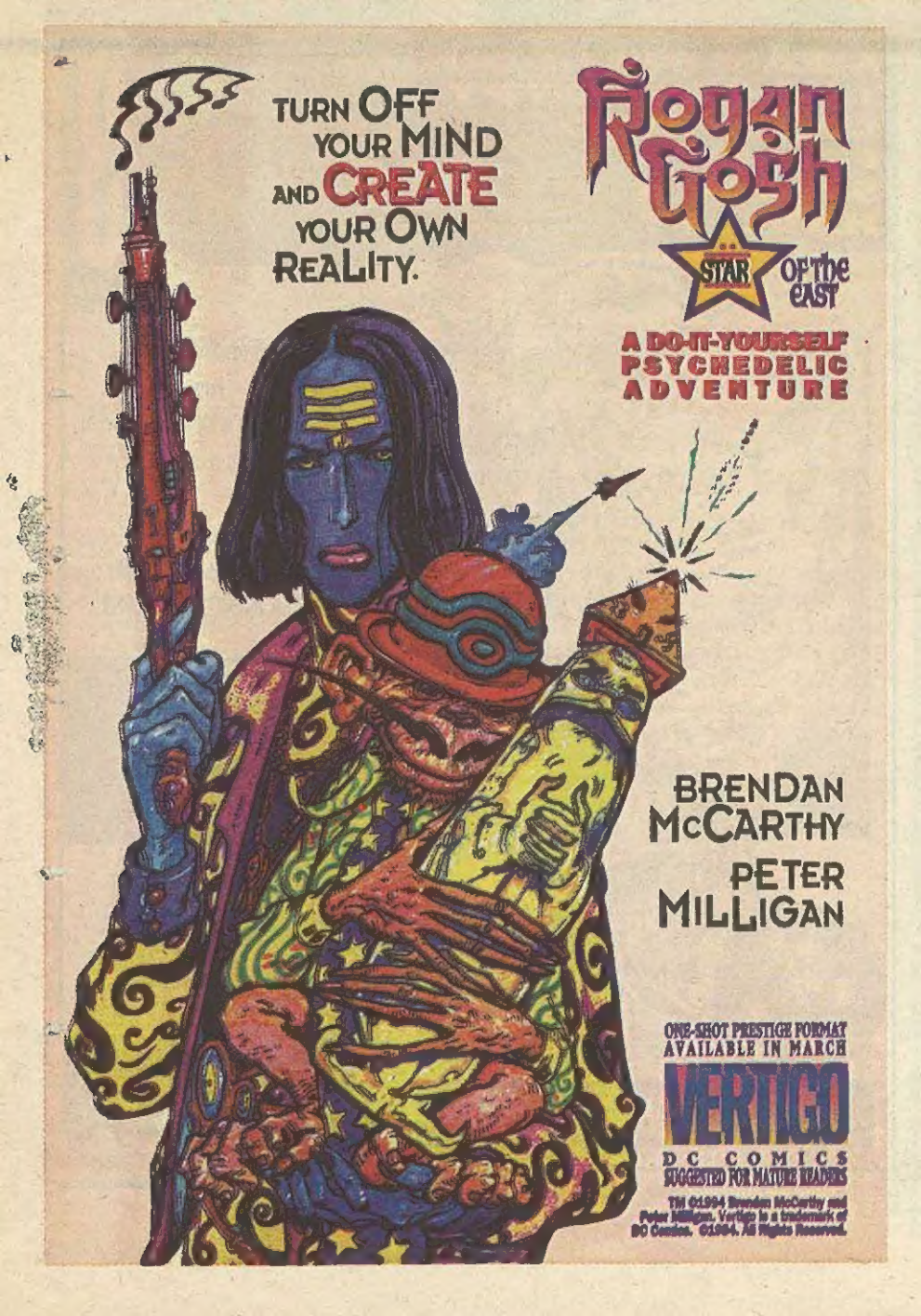
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